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18 May 53

MEMORANDUM FOR: CIA Member of Panel "I".

SUBJECT : Comments on PSB D-23.

1. In general, it is believed, the Agency position on PSB D-23 should be summarized as follows:

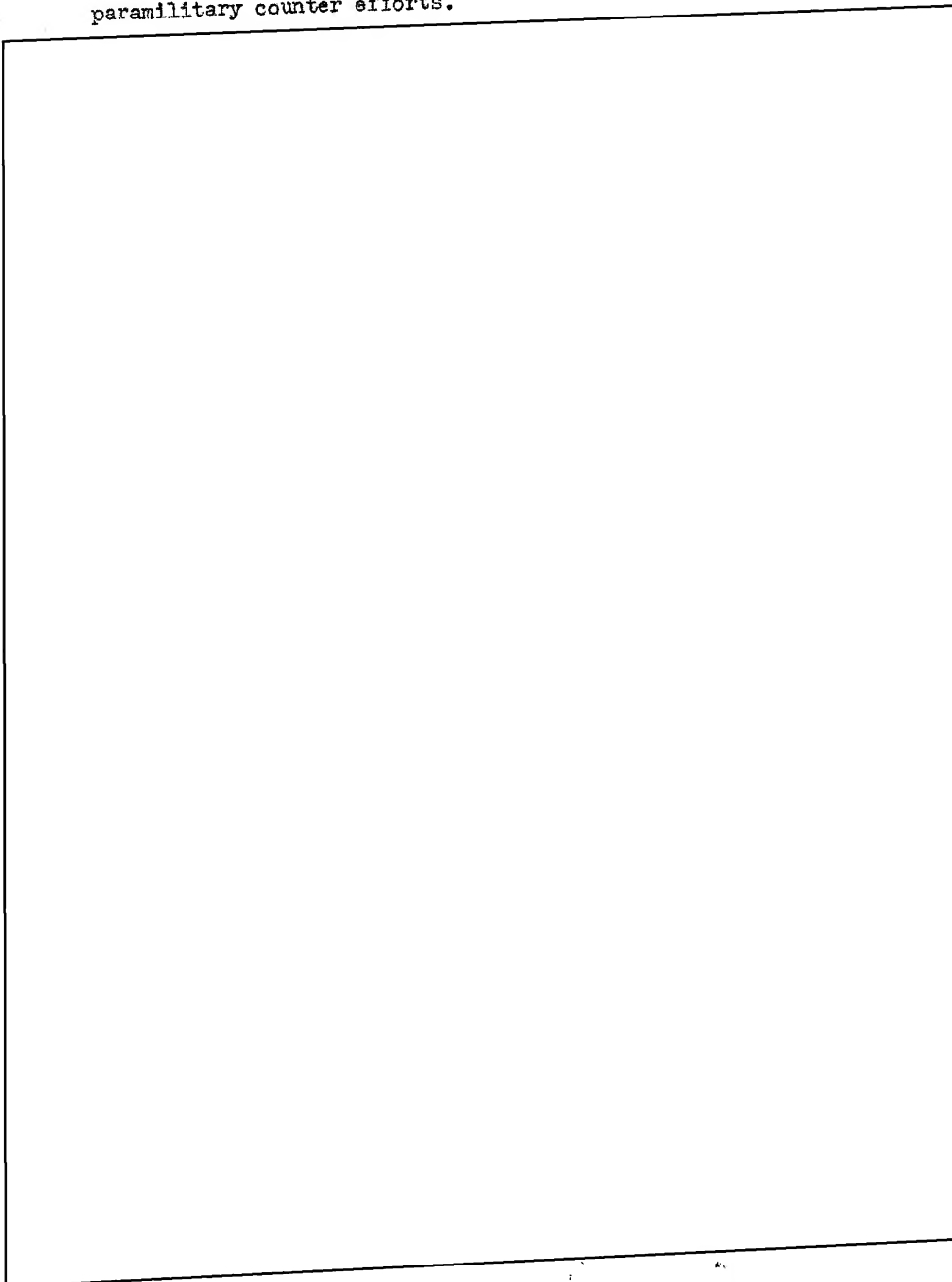
a. It is agreed and accepted:

(1) That Communist expansion potential in

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is assuming formidable proportions which necessitate substantial and immediate U.S.-supported political-psychological-paramilitary counter efforts.

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(2) That, as strongly implied in several places, U.S. participation should be decidedly overt and all-out in all respects. U.S. participation should be to "activate" and "support", but a great deal of the effort must be covert if we are not to become involved in a full scale military operation. Substantial overt indications of interest and concern are important, but we should not go overboard in the matter.

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2. Attached is an addendum incorporating the paragraph by paragraph suggested changes in subject paper which includes an initial draft of suggested "Conclusions" to be inserted at end of Section III and a suggested "Recommendation" designed to finalize staff study portion and lead to the draft "Plan" which follows as Section IV.

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ADDENDUM TO MEMORANDUM FOR CIA MEMBER OF PANEL "F".

SUBJECT: Comments and Suggestions Concerning PSB D-23.

1. Page 1 - Title. Suggest title be changed by deleting words "the

[redacted] of". [redacted]

The strategy needed

to deny the area to the Communists is more exactly the purpose of the study and plan.

2. Page 1 - Section II, Para 1a. Delete the words "the most" and insert instead the words "a possibly" between the words "point" and "significant" on fourth line, and delete the word "probably" on same line.

[redacted] is the most significant Communist achievement in [redacted]

3. Page 2 - Section II, Para 1b. Delete words "new" and "we face" as inaccurate.

4. Page 3 - Section II, Para 1d. Delete the words "a particularly deadly threat - - - SEA" and substitute "a very real threat to mainland SEA."

5. Page 4 - Section II, Para 2b. Delete words "based upon U.S. leadership in SEA" and insert instead "which should be fostered, developed and supported by the U.S." The original words imply undesirable U.S. interference. Also, change word "victory" to "national self-confidence" on line eight. This is more accurate.

6. Page 5 - Section II, Para 2b. Delete the words "area occupied by the [redacted]" on the first line and insert instead the words [redacted] This change is made for accuracy

7. Page 5 - Section II, Para 2b. Insert the words "an expanding Communist effort" instead of the words "Communist attack" on third line of page. This change is for more precise accuracy only.

8. Page 5 - Section II, Para 2c. Insert words "and geographically the logical base for counter operations against the Communists" between the word "group" and the comma following that word. This insert is for amplification.

9. Page 5 - Section II, Para 2c. Delete "U.S." from last line of underlined words on page and insert instead the words "anti-Communist." Again the emphasis on the U.S. implies undesirable interference by the U.S. Also, replace the word "victory" with words "national self-confidence" on line above.

10. Page 6 - Section II, Para 2d(2). Delete word "leadership" on first line and substitute "support" and delete the words "mitigate the taint of imperialism which surrounds the struggle against Communism in the minds of [redacted] nationalists everywhere. Specifically it will". The implications of direct U.S. pressure must be avoided and the other words are true only if qualified to include strong overt expressions of U.S. support of nationalist aspirations of all [redacted] Unmodified, the words imply a trend which would increase the "taint of imperialism."

12. Page 7 - Section II, Para 2d(3). Change word "or" to "and" in second line of paragraph which begins: "The [redacted] position - - -." This is important for accuracy, as [redacted] resulting native distrust make them "unable" and the same policy causes them to be "unwilling" to develop or encourage any strong native movement.

14. Page 8 - Section II, Para 2e(1). Substitute "involvement" for "leadership" as being more accurate.

15. Page 8 - Section II, Para 2e(3). Delete as relating to a movement of little potential.

17. Page 12 - Section III, Para 2a. Delete the words "a brutal tyranny" and substitute instead the word "severe." Delete following sentence entirely. These changes are to reconcile differences of opinion as to the magnitude of the dissatisfaction extant [redacted]

18. Page 13 - Section III, Para 2b. Delete the words "strong" and "leadership" from last sentence and insert word "help" instead of "leadership."

~~19. Page 13 - Section III, Para 2c. Delete the words "and though they are generally well disposed towards Americans." These are extraneous and create an impression of arguing the point.~~

20. Page 14 - Section III, Para 2c. Delete the word "American" from second line on page and insert the word "strong" instead.

21. Page 16 - Section III, Para 3b. Reword first sentence as follows: "Of the approximately 100,000 men in [redacted] 35,000-40,000 are in the Army, about 40,000 are in the National Police, and between 15,000-20,000 are in the Navy and [redacted]"

22. Page 16 - Section III. Delete footnote as extraneous and inaccurate.

23. Page 17 - Section III, Para 3b. Amplify last paragraph before paragraph 3c by adding the words: "and is responsible for frontier security and internal security in both urban and rural areas."

24. Page 17 - Section III, Para 3c. Add the following sentence: "Unless opposed by jets, this force could make effective use of World War II fighter-bombers by applying the techniques developed by the USAF and the AVG for use against ground troops."

25. Page 18 - Section III, Para 3c. Insert words "which has proven responsive to U.S. policy guidance in the past" between words [redacted] and "has" on first line. [redacted]

26. Page 19 - Section III, Para 4f. Delete word "leadership" from next to last line on page and insert instead the words "activated operations."

28. Page 20 - Section III, Para 4f. Delete entire second paragraph

on page.

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Overt assistance can expand in

each country as overt commitments are synchronized with the respective national authorities.

NOTE. In order to round out and summarize this staff study phase of PSB D-23 it is suggested that a section entitled "Conclusions" and another entitled "Recommendations" be added as follows:

IV. CONCLUSIONS

1. That Communist expansion activity in Southeast Asia is growing in strength and potency and must be met with an effective political-psychological-military counter effort or Southeast Asia could fall to the Communists without overt intervention by the Chinese Communist armed forces.

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V. RECOMMENDATION

That following Psychological Strategy Plan be approved.

29. Page 21 - Section IV, Para 2a. Add an item (3) as follows: "Assist with necessary materiel and equipment."

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30. Page 21 - Section IV, Para 2b. Replace the words [REDACTED]

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by the word [REDACTED] as being more accurate and politically and psychologically more desirable.

31. Page 21 - Section IV, Para 2b(2). Delete the word "the" before "U.S." on first line, change "presence" to "support" on same line, and substitute "and assuring the indigenes that U.S. motives are to limit the aggressions and the expansion of Soviet Bloc affiliated countries and nothing more" for the words "without etc." at end of page and paragraph.

32. Page 22 - Section IV, Para 2b(3). Delete as a matter of lesser significance.

33. Page 22 - Section IV, Para 2c. Delete and write instead: "Encourage all feasible cooperation between anti-Communist elements [REDACTED] by encouraging respect for national structures and prerogatives and stressing mutuality of interest and objectives of all indigenous elements, as well as

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[REDACTED] This change for clarity.

34. Page 22 - Section IV, Para 3a. Insert the word "covert" before the word "creation" on second line. More accurate.

35. Page 22 - Section IV, Para 3b(1). Delete the words "the active partnership" and substitute therefor the words "the nature of the interest and support." More accurate.

36. Page 23 - Section IV, Para 3b(2). Delete the words "military participation" and substitute therefor the word "support." More accurate.

37. Page 23 - Section IV, Para 3b(4). Replace the word "leadership" by the word "support" after "U.S." on second line and insert the words "the U.S. or" between "by" and "other" on third line. More accurate.

38. Page 23 - Section IV, Para 3c. Insert the words "and covert" after word "overt" on first line. More accurate.

39. Page 23 - Section IV, Para 3d. Insert the word "covertly" at beginning of paragraph. More accurate.

40. Page 24 - Section IV, Para 3d(1). Substitute the word "leaders" for "elite." More accurate.

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42. Page 25 - Section IV, Para 3g. Delete all words after word "subversion" on line four and add instead the following sentence: [REDACTED]

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